

Renick House
NW side U. S. Rte. 219, 1 mi. S of Renick.
Renick
Greenbrier County
West Virginia

HABS No. WVA-116

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WVA-116

RENICK HOUSE

Location: Renick, Greenbrier County, West Virginia,
northwest side of Rte. 219 (15 miles north
of Lewisburg), 1 mile south of Renick

Present Owner:

Present Occupants: Tenant farmer and family

Present Use: 1795 building is tenant farmhouse; 1820
building is unoccupied, used only for
storage

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. ca. 1795 stone house:

After purchasing "Cave Farm" from Robert McClanahan about 1790, William Renick built a stone house on the property about 1795, the same year in which the Old Stone Church in Lewisburg was constructed. Renick was a pioneer who amassed great wealth in the region as a farmer and landowner. (above information obtained from an article in The Alderson Times - see bibliography)

The house has a one-room deep central hall plan with end chimneys and a one-story lean-to against the rear.

2. ca. 1820 addition:

About 1820 a brick addition was built against the east wall of the original house. Designed as if it were a separate house, the addition communicates only with the ell of the main house through a door in its west wall on the first floor. What the house may lack in size - only a single room downstairs and two small ones upstairs - it makes up in ornament. The central neo-classical portico, whose cornice continues in molded brick around the rest of the house, dominates the exterior while the inside is crowded with boldly proportioned woodwork. According to Ruth Woods Dayton in Greenbrier Pioneers and their Homes (Charleston, 1942), the style of the architectural trim reflects the hand of Conrod Burgess, a local "carpenter" who was very

active in the Greenbrier Valley during the 1820's and 1830's.

The corner stairway continues up to the attic. First and second floor mantels have been marbelized, as have the panels in the wainscoting.

Calvin B. Renick, a noted Civil War figure, was born here on May 20, 1836. Subsequently, Renick House became the "social center of Greenbrier Valley during the Civil War." (Alderson Times)

B. Bibliography:

1. Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and their Homes. Charleston: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942.
2. Anonymous. "WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE: Social Center of Greenbrier Valley during Civil War" in The Alderson Times and The Monroe-Greenbrier Farmer, Friday, March 7, 1952.